



Attorney's Docket No.: 06501-030001

15A
AP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroaki Yamamoto
Serial No. : 09/305,390
Filed : May 5, 1999
Title : METHOD FOR PRODUCING OPTICALLY ACTIVE 4-HALO-3-HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID ESTER

Art Unit : 1652
Examiner : R. Hutson

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed March 15, 2000, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-6, 11, 13, and 15-22.

Sub C1
7. (Amended) A method for producing a (S)-4-halo-3-hydroxybutyric acid ester, the method comprising asymmetrically reducing a 4-halo-acetoacetic acid ester or its [derivatives] derivative with a purified acetoacetyl-CoA reductase [constituting the] that can participate in a poly- β -hydroxy fatty acid biosynthesis system.

A1 sub D17
8. (Amended) [A] The method of claim 7, wherein said acetoacetyl-CoA reductase is derived from [microorganisms] a microorganism belonging to the genus [Ralstonia] *Ralstonia*.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein [said acetoacetyl-CoA reductase is derived from *Ralstonia eutropha*] the microorganism is *Ralstonia eutropha*.

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August 11, 2000

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